What is claimed is:

1.   An apparatus that grants simultaneous access to data stored in a mainframe environment, comprising:

an emulation, which contains the data, appears to a mainframe computing system as a peripheral device wherein the peripheral device provides access to the data to a plurality of requesters simultaneously through the creation of a unique nominal identification (ID) for each request.

2.   An apparatus as in claim 1, wherein the peripheral device is a tape drive.

3.   An apparatus as in claim 1, wherein the emulation is a message queue server system.

4.   An apparatus as in claim 3, wherein the message queue server system is comprised of a device emulator coupled to a first device having a first protocol, a digital storage coupled to the device emulator for temporary storage of information from the first protocol, at least one manager (i) coordinating the transfer of information of the first protocol between the device emulator and the digital storage and (ii) coordinating transfer of the information between the digital storage and a second protocol.

5.   An apparatus as in claim 1, wherein a request for access results in device designation, a dataset name, the nominal ID and the retention period.

6.   An apparatus as in claim 5, wherein the request for access is given the latest data stored in the memory.

5   7.   An apparatus as in claim 6, wherein a prior request for the data whose dataset name matches the name of the data in the request for access is updated to reflect the most current version of the data.

8.   A method for granting simultaneous access to data stored in a mainframe

10   environment, the steps comprising:

emulating a peripheral device in a mainframe environment;

storing the data on the peripheral device; and

generating a unique nominal ID for each mainframe request to access the

data.

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9.   The method as in claim 8, wherein the step of emulating utilizes a message queue server.

10.   The method as in claim 8, wherein the peripheral device is a tape drive.

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11.   The method as in claim 8, where the request for access to the data further comprises the steps of designating a device, designating a dataset name, generating the nominal ID, designating the retention period for the data.

25   12.   The method as in claim 8, further comprising the step of generating access to the most current data.

13.   The method as in claim 12, wherein access to the most current data for a

prior request for access is accomplished through a match in the dataset name of

a recent access for data and is updated based upon the recent access to reflect the

5   most current version of the data.

14.   An apparatus for granting simultaneous access to data stored in a

mainframe environment, comprising:

        means for emulating a peripheral device in a mainframe environment;

10   means for storing the data on the peripheral device; and

        means for generating a unique nominal ID for each mainframe request to

access the data.

15.   The apparatus as in claim 14, wherein the means for emulating utilizes a

15   message queue server.

16.   The apparatus as in claim 14, wherein the peripheral device is a tape drive.

17.   The apparatus as in claim 14, further comprising means for generating

20   access to the most current data.

18.   The apparatus as in claim 14, further comprising means for updating prior

request for access with the most current version of the data.

25   19.   The apparatus as in claim 14, wherein the means for updating is a key that

references the data in a persistent store.

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20.   The apparatus as in claim 14 wherein the means for storing comprises at

least one of the following storage devices: magnetic disk, optical disk and digital

memory components.

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